

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HINE et al. Examiner: ALTER, Alyssa M.
Serial No.: 10/646,545 Group Art Unit: 3762
Filed: 08/21/2003 Docket: P11138.00
Title: MULTI-POLAR ELECTRICAL MEDICAL LEAD CONNECTOR SYSTEM

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 4,628,934 to Pohndorf et al. ("Pohndorf"). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pohndorf in view of US Patent No. 4,469,104 to Peers-Travarton ("Peers-Travarton"). Claims 7-10 are canceled.

The present invention is directed to an implantable medical device system that includes a first adapter and a second adaptor. The first adaptor includes a first internal surface forming a first lumen to receive a lead connector positioned within the first adapter and a first electrical contact element positioned along the first inner surface at a first distance from a first proximal end for electrically coupling with a first lead connector element of a plurality of lead connector elements when the lead connector is positioned within the first lumen. A first insulative layer extends along the first inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the first lead connector element. The second adapter includes a second internal surface forming a second lumen to receive the lead connector positioned within the second adapter and a second electrical contact element

positioned along the second inner surface at a second distance, not equal to the first distance, from the second proximal end for electrically coupling with a second lead connector element of the plurality of lead connector elements other than the first lead connector element when the lead connector is positioned within the second lumen. A second insulative layer extends along the second inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element. Each of the first adapter and the second adapter include a respective external surface to engage the inner surface the connector bore, the respective external surfaces including a conductive surface electrically coupled to the corresponding first and second electrical contact element to electrically engage the corresponding first and second electrical contact element within the connector bore. The external surface conforms to an industry standard.

Pohndorf teaches an electronic electrode switching/selection circuit that minimizes the number of feedthroughs from a pacer case to a pacer neck needed to connect with pacing lead electrodes that will be actively used during operation of a pacer. Peers-Trevarton teaches a connector assembly with spaced apart metal bands.

Neither Pohndorf nor Peers-Trevarton teach an implantable medical device system that includes an external surface configured to conform to an industry standard. Industry standard for connectors are set forth in ISO 5841-3. Page 3 of the specification, claim 2, and Figures 2-7 clearly establish Applicants' use of a connector that may be universally used since it complies with ISO 5841-3 (IS1). The external protrusions are strategically placed in order to reduce manufacturing costs associated with maintaining a variety of connectors. Withdrawal of the instant rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is well warranted.

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Respectfully submitted,

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